

Mennonite Observer

"For I decided to know
nothing among you
except Jesus Christ and
him crucified." 1 Cor. 2:2

★
YOUR CHRISTIAN
FAMILY WEEKLY

December 20, 1957

The Christian Press, Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba

Vol. III, No 51

Christmas Carols

The Christmas carol was born, it is said, in 13th century Italy. It was St. Francis of Assisi who created the original manger scene representing the birth of Christ, and his friends gathered around the replica of that first Nativity to sing songs of the great Gospel tale of God's love for man. Thus was the narrative of St. Luke dramatized in song, and the simple carols to the Christ Child spread rapidly throughout Europe.

Although we treasure the carols handed down from other parts of the world, America itself has contributed some of the world's best-loved Christmas songs. The sweet verses of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" were written in 1868 by an Episcopal clergyman who loved children. The Rev. Phillips Brooks, who later became Bishop of Massachusetts, was pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia when he made the visit to the Holy Land that inspired the words of the famous carol, a favorite of children everywhere today. The melody for "O Little Town of Bethlehem" was composed by Lewis Redner, organist and superintendent of the Sunday School at Holy Trinity.

American Contributions

Several American carols were composed by the Rev. John Henry Hopkins, Jr., of Christ's Church in Williamsport, Pa. Words and music for the most famous of these, "We Three Kings of Orient Are," were written in 1857.

The "Three Kings" are not clearly defined in the Bible's version of the Magi, but rather have come down to us through legend and tradition. As the legend goes, Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar, guided by the Star of Bethlehem, arrived on the Twelfth Night to pay homage to the new-born King. Melchior, diminutive king of Nubia, presented a gift of gold, signifying Christ's Royalty. Caspar, king of Chaldea, gave frankincense to symbolize Christ's Divinity; and Balthazar — tall, black-skinned king of Tarshish — gave the babe the gift of myrrh, representing Christ's suffering. This great legend serves to remind us today that Christ and Christmas are not bound by limitations of national borders or of race.

The words for another favorite, "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," were first published in the *Christian Register* in 1850. Their author, the Rev. Edmund Hamilton Sears, was a Unitarian minister and poet who is also remembered for another carol, "Calm on the Listening Ear." The inspiration and natural beauty of Sears' poem led to the composing of the now-famous carol tune by a Boston musician named Richard Storrs Willis.

Other Nations Have Theirs Too

Both England and France claim the origin of "The First Noel," a true folk-song with its strikingly simple verse and imperfect rhyme. "Noel" is one of the many French words brought to England during the Norman Conquest. Derived from the Latin "natalia", meaning birth, it has gradually become as-

sociated with the birth of Christ.

"The First Noel" did not appear in print until 1833, although it was in common use in England and in Europe during the 17th century. Tradition says that the verses are supposedly sung by shepherds, and the refrain is sung by the angels.

The most widely known and best loved Christmas carol of all is "Silent Night, Holy Night." Written by a village priest of Oberndorf, Bavaria, "Silent Night" has been translated into 90 languages and dialects.

Origin of Silent Night

Following the blessing of a newborn infant on Christmas Eve 139 years ago, Father Joseph Mohr was returning to the town when he was reminded of the first Christmas Eve in Bethlehem. The beauty and tranquility of that holy night crept over him, and as he walked he jotted down the inspired words that were to mean so much to the world. Next morning, Father Mohr

took the verses to Franz Gruber, teacher-organist of the village, who set them immediately to music.

As luck would have it, the church organ was out of commission that Christmas Eve. "Silent Night" made its first appearance, therefore, as two solo voices accompanied by a guitar. The organ repairman took the carol home with him to Tyrol, where it was performed at fairs and outdoor markets by a family of singers. And thus it was that the beloved "Silent Night, Holy Night" eventually was carried from Southern Germany to the North, and from there was spread to the entire world.

Travellers have heard it in the depths of Asia, at the foot of the Himalayas, in New Zealand, and in the darkness of equatorial Africa. It is sung by Indians in South America and by Arabs in the Sudan. Perhaps the greatest rendition of all took place in a little

(Continued on page 4-4)



Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright;
Round yon Virgin Mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

EDITORIAL

Treasures

The word treasure brings with it memories of pirates and hidden gold. It also reminds us of the age of exploration when ships set sail for the new world to seek treasure. We as Christians are reminded that we have been made rich toward God through Jesus Christ, that we have experienced the riches of His grace, and that "in Him (in Christ), and in Him alone, men will find all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Phillips transl.).

Involuntarily the question comes to us, "What do we consider as treasure at Christmas? What memories of Christmas will we treasure in our heart when we enter the new year?" Mary, the mother of Jesus, by her actions has helped us to gain the proper perspective. We read of her, "But Mary treasured all these things and turned them over in her mind" (Phillips transl.). Another translator, Kenneth Wuest, puts it this way: "But Mary kept on continually guarding all these words in her heart and bringing them together for the purpose of considering them in their total import."

The gospel writer, Luke, seems to imply that Mary treasured in her heart the message concerning Christ and the facts surrounding the miraculous birth of her son — God's Son. Her mind was filled with the wonder of it all: the appearance of an angel announcing His birth; the angelic host proclaiming His birth and His mission; and the worshipping shepherds. Undoubtedly she was not only pre-occupied with merely the historic past, but also with its implications for the future—for her future as mother and the future of her son.

Joseph had been told by an angel in a dream, "... thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Mary herself had been told by the angel Gabriel, "And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." The shepherds had been told, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

A Saviour from sin—he shall be great—he shall be called a Son of the Highest—the throne of his father David—reign for ever—Christ the Lord; these were the predictions concerning the infant that lay in the manger, that Mary cuddled in her arms. No wonder she treasured "these things" and "these words" in her heart and pondered over their significance. We do well to follow her example during this Christmas season. If we meditatively consider these truths they will lead us to confession of sin, to new faith in all-powerful Saviour and Lord, to full acceptance of His lordship in our life, and to a revitalized message to a world dying in sin and despair.

★

Jesus is Born in Bethlehem

At that time a proclamation was made by Cæsar Augustus that all the inhabited world should be registered. This was the first census, undertaken while Cyrenius was governor of Syria; and everybody went to the town of his birth to be registered. Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to David's town, Bethlehem, in Judaea, because he was a direct descendant of David, to be registered with his future wife, Mary, now in the later stages of her pregnancy. So it happened that it was while they were there in Bethlehem that she came to the end of her time. She gave birth to her first child, a son. And as there was no place for them inside the inn, she wrapped him up and laid him in a manger.

There were some shepherds living in the same part of the country, keeping guard throughout the night over their flock in the open fields. Suddenly an angel of the Lord stood by their side, the splendour of the Lord blazed around them, and they were terror-stricken. But the angel said to them:

"Do not be afraid! Listen, I bring you glorious news of great joy which is for all the people. This very day, in David's town, a Saviour has been born for you. He is Christ, the Lord. Let this prove it to you: you will find a baby, wrapped up and lying in a manger."

DEVOTIONAL

The Greatest Giving

By A. J. Froese*

The motives for giving vary considerably. Probably each one of us has, at one time or another, wondered just how true our motives are.

Some people give because of importunity. Jesus says of the man who had been asked to give a friend three loaves of bread at midnight: "Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth" (John 11:8). The simplest and easiest way out is to give: someone gave me a gift and I must return the gesture. That is giving—but not exactly the highest form of giving.

There is also selfish giving. Someone may give a lesser gift in hopes of receiving a better gift. Today many gifts are given for advertising purposes. Only the best customer receives one—the poorer customer will probably have to shift for himself. There isn't much purpose in describing the frivolous, extravagant, spectacular giving—or the purposeless and meaningless, or the squanderous, harmful and debased giving.

And yet, no one would suggest that giving be eliminated during the festive season. Christmas is a time of giving—and rightfully so. Who has not experienced the thrill, joy and blessing connected with giving? Yes, it is more blessed to give than to receive! What we need to do is to learn from God's magnificent giving and retain that true spirit of giving and goodwill during the whole year.

God's motives in giving are true. "For God so loved the world that he gave . . ." What would that imply? God loved so much that He gave the greatest gift. Thus the greatest motivation is love.

God's love is not based on feelings; but His love is rooted in the 'eternal resolve'. Man's love is often a reciprocal relationship, but God's love goes out regardless of response. "But God commendeth

his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). God gives with a perfect will of love (mit dem vollkommenen Liebeswillen).

Generally speaking, man's criterion as to who is to be the recipient of his gift is a matter of attitude or sympathetic attraction. How much could God have loved us had He used such a standard? Christ says, "For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye?" (Matth. 5:46) It is said that the early Christians saw love as something beyond the sphere of the emotional. To them it was an act of the will, "The subordination of the will for the good of the neighbour."

God's giving met a definite need. At Christmas you and I should be concerned that our giving helps to meet the spiritual need of our fellowmen. How can we do this? Seemingly the government is caring for the aged, poor and handicapped. Somehow, however, there still are many places where a hamper of "Good Cheer" can point to the unspeakable gift. Each one of us should be on the lookout for individual cases where happiness can be brought into a home which has been bereaved, or where a member of the family is ill. Probably giving of our time is as great a gift as any: the giving of time to comfort the depressed and sorrowing by singing carols at their home; the time to tell the searching unsaved, "Unto you is born a Saviour." Then, too, we can remember the labourers in God's vineyard. Many cannot be home for Christmas. We cannot afford to forget to give towards the general treasury for missions.

Christ wants us to give—and by giving spread the glad tidings: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

*Leading minister of the Boissevain, Man., Mennonite Brethren Church.

And in a flash there appeared with the angel a vast host of the armies of Heaven, praising God, saying:

"Glory to God in the highest Heaven! Peace upon earth among men of goodwill!"

When the angels left them and went back into heaven, the shepherds said to each other:

"Now let us go straight to Bethlehem and see this thing, which the Lord has made known to us."

So they came as fast as they could and they found Mary and Joseph—and the baby lying in the manger. And when they had seen this sight, they told everybody what had been told to them about the little child. And those who heard them were amazed at what the shepherds said. But Mary treasured all these things and turned them over in her mind. The shepherds went back to work, glorifying and praising God for everything that they had heard and seen, which had happened just as they had been told. (Luke 2:1-20, Phillip's translation).

Missionary Speaks at Youth Conference

By Holdina Voth

Virgil, Ont.—The Niagara Mennonite Brethren Church, formerly the Niagara Christian Fellowship Chapel, held its annual Young People's Conference from November 22 to 24. "Modern Man in a World of Crisis" served as theme for the three-day conference.

Rev. John Bell of Toronto served as guest speaker. He has been a missionary in China under the China Inland Mission from 1921—1945. At the present time he is deputation secretary in Eastern Canada for the China Inland Mission. Rev. Bell served instead of Rev. Leslie Millin of Toronto and Rev. D. H. Neumann, both of whom were unable to speak because of sudden illness.

At the first night's service Rev. Bell gave us the experiences of his personal friend, Rev. Millin, in Communist China. He declared that Communism is a "vicious spiritual attack of demoniac force" making a great attempt to ensnare a whole generation of men. What we need is to get God back on our side, but we cannot get God back on our side until we get back on God's side. This means taking Christ at His word: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no man cometh unto the Father but by Me" (John 14:6).

Saturday afternoon Rev. Bell spoke on "Modernism", according to Hebrews chapter one and chapter 2, verses 1 and 2. That evening he delivered a message on Materialism, using John 16 as his text.

Sunday, Rev. Bell delivered messages on: "The Christian's Conscience and the Great Commission" (I Tim. 1:2-20; Acts 24:16); "Present-day Activities of Satan" (Eph-

esians 6:10-18); and "A God-glorifying Life" (Galatians 1:11-24). Expounding these truths, he stated that there is no greater joy and satisfaction than to have a conscience that is void of offence toward God and man. In his second message he portrayed the strength of the enemy of our souls and challenged the congregation to serve God and Him alone. Even as Paul was called by God to reveal Christ in him, so we are to reveal Christ in our life.

The singing is always an important item at such a conference. Mr. E. Dyck was responsible for the singing. The theme song for the conference was, "To God be the Glory." Aside from local talent we enjoyed the singing of the Moments of Blessing radio quartet, a Vineland group, the Virgil M. B. Church choir, and the St. Catharines M. B. Church male choir.

Missionary stories served to awaken interest among the children for missions. Rev. Bell and Miss Herta Voth, who is now on furlough after serving in Colombia, S.A., served with stories for the children.

After covering expenses the offerings were designated for the yearly support of a native evangelist in the Belgian Congo and for the China Inland Mission.

We did not only enjoy spiritual food. The ladies also provided us with physical refreshment during the afternoon recess.

"May it be seen that with Thee I have been, Jesus my Lord and my Saviour. May it be known I am truly Thine own, In all my speech and behaviour."

people of the Lodi Church wish Rev. Dick the Lord's richest blessing and pray that the Shafter Church will learn to love him as he is loved in Lodi.

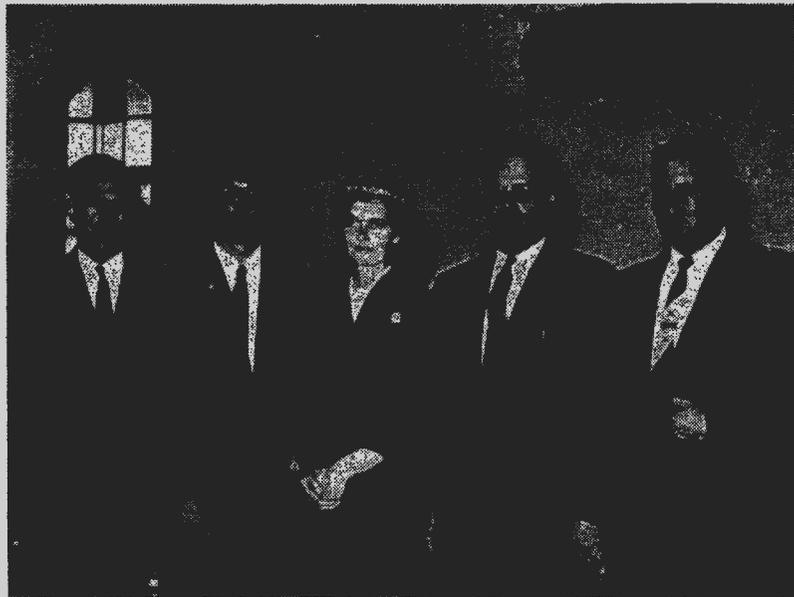
The Lodi M. B. Church is expecting their new pastor, the Rev. John H. Engel, to arrive from Minot, North Dakota, on February 1, 1958.

Evangelistic Meetings at Swift Current

Swift Current, Sask.—Rev. Abe Goertz, pastor of the Main Centre M. B. Church, conducted evangelistic services here for an entire week. Christians were reminded to serve our Great Master faithfully, while the unsaved were asked to look to Christ's completed salvation available for all.

During the day the pastor, Rev. E. J. Lautermilch, and the evangelist visited the widows and the ill—both in body and soul.

Each meeting was preceded by a 15-minute prayer-meeting.



Ordination services for Mr. and Mrs. John Esau were held in the East Aldergrove M. B. church on Sunday, November 24. Serving at the ordination service were Rev. P. R. Toews, left, moderator of the provincial Mennonite Brethren Conference of B.C.; Rev. Herman Voth, second from right, pastor of the East Aldergrove M. B. Church; and Rev. P. P. Neufeldt, chairman of the West Coast Children's Mission. Rev. and Mrs. J. Esau are serving at the County Line, B. C., chapel of the West Coast Children's Mission.

Christmas Broadcast By Mennonite Hour

Harrisonburg, Va.—"The Prince of Peace," a special Christmas production will be presented on The Mennonite Hour Broadcast this Sunday at 8:30 a.m. on station CFAM, Altona, Manitoba, 1290 on the dial, also CHML, Hamilton, Ontario, 7:30 a.m., 900 on the dial.

Program Director, Norman Derstine, says about this program: "It attempts to recreate the scene of Christ's birth through song and narration. It shows the relevance of this event to our personal lives today."

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," "Away in a Manger," "Silent Night," and "Joy to the World" are a few of the many familiar carols which will be sung a cappella by a variety of choral groups on Sunday's broadcast.

The Mennonite Hour broadcast, originating in Harrisonburg, Virginia, is heard each week by an international audience. Its producer, Mennonite Broadcasts, Inc., also sponsors programs in Spanish, Navaho, Japanese, and Italian languages.

Ten Received Into Aldergrove Church

Aldergrove, B.C. — The East Aldergrove Menn. Brethren Church was indeed grateful for the use of the Clearbrook M.B. church and its baptismal facilities on Sunday, December 15. Their own baptismal facilities are outside, and therefore not suitable at this time of the year.

Rev. A. Konrad, leading minister of the Clearbrook M.B. church, extended a hearty welcome to the large congregation. Rev. Voth, the

leading minister of East Aldergrove M.B. Church then expressed his gratitude and took charge of the service. The guest speaker was a teacher in the Abbotsford Mennonite Brethren Bible School, Bro. George Koprad. He spoke in German on the theme, "Doing His Commandments", especially stressing the three commandments of salvation, baptism and church work.

Nine ladies — Martha Willms, Ruth Voth, Mary Ann Voth, Victoria Nikkel, Lorena Funk, Johanna Klassen, Leona Siemens, Clara Willms, and Wanda Rempel — and Martin Esau followed the Lord in baptism and were received into the church. Rev. H. Voth officiated. After the ceremony the church had fellowship around the Lord's Table. A mixed quartet sang several songs.

The baptism was the second this year for the church.

Ontario Ministers and Deacons Meet

Port Rowan, Ont.—The ministers and deacons of the Mennonite Brethren churches in Ontario met here on November 16 and 17 for their annual "Ministers' and Deacons' Conference.

The theme of the conference was, "Spiritual Nurture in the Church." The sessions were well attended by representatives from all of the M. B. churches in Ontario. Each one present was reminded anew of the great responsibility they have in the church.

God looks not at the quantity of the gift but the quality of the giver.

* * *

God will not accept praying in lieu of obeying.

Canadians Assume New Pastorates

Lodi, Calif.—At a recent business meeting of the Mennonite Brethren Church here, Ed. Willems, assistant to the pastor, announced the resignation of their pastor, the Rev. Henry H. Dick. It was with regret that his resignation was accepted in as much as the Lord has blessed the church during his ministry here.

During the ministry of Rev. Dick at Lodi the Sunday school attendance increased 90 per cent, and an educational unit was built and paid for. A radio broadcast of the regular morning worship service was also started over Station KCVR, Lodi. This broadcast is sponsored by members of the church.

Rev. Dick will bring his farewell address at the Lodi Church on January 5, 1958. He has been called to the pastorate of the Shafter Mennonite Brethren Church. The

Second Language in Public Schools

(From the Brief presented to the Manitoba royal commission on education by the Manitoba Mennonite Educational Committee. — Ed.)

The national development of Canada from the beginning departed from the American "melting-pot" ideal. The American ideal was pre-determined, and American policy was to re-cast and re-mold new immigrants to conform to this ideal. Many American sociologists today maintain that this process led not only to sterile uniformity but also to human wastage. Crime and delinquency often had their roots in severed kinship relations, broken church ties, and other direct results of the intense "melting-pot" process.

From the very beginning Canada pursued a different course. By assimilation we do not mean a one-way street; it is "a give and take" process. At the outset Canada had a dual culture, and this was anchored in legal statutes. In the West the vast immigration stream produced what sociologists term a "plural" culture. A rigid maintenance of this plural culture pattern was against the interests of Canada as a nation. We do not want a Balkanized Canada. However, in our opinion the subsequent provincial regulations as they affected our schools and their very rigid application swung the pendulum too far in the opposite direction. They almost extinguished the heritage of our cultural groups.

We accept and recommend without reservation British political institutions. We recognize the English language as the chief medium of national communication. Our schools have the best qualified teachers both at the public school and the high school level in rural Manitoba. Indeed, the Mennonite areas provide many teachers for outside areas, including Winnipeg and the suburbs.

The Mennonite faith and doctrine was recognized by the Canadian government by its Orders-in-Council dating back to the time of Mennonite immigration to Manitoba. These have been validated by subsequent governments. One of the pillars of our religious heritage is the German language, which is used for church services in almost all Mennonite churches in this province. Aside from this the German language is one of the leading options and requirements of the Manitoba high schools and the University of Manitoba. By recommending greater latitude in the instruction of the German language our interests thus merge with the wider interests of the nation.

A diverse culture pattern blending into a wholesome nation, with

each group retaining what is best in its own heritage and relinquishing what is inferior, will build a strong and colourful Canada. We support the basic pre-requisite that English in our schools is fundamental. We also feel that preserving a certain diversity in culture is as desirable as for example a diversity in farming is desirable for agriculture.

Robert England, who studied this aspect of our development, who was himself of Anglo-Saxon extraction, wrote: "It is not our business to try and make him like ourselves, nor should we try to drill him (that is, the new Canadian) into a dull uniformity of custom and habit of thought and life."

We submit the above as the fundamental trend of Canadian national development, and it provides the basis for our recommendations.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Department of Education for their persistent efforts to retain the emphasis on the basic subjects in our curriculum. We do feel that the three r's are still all-important in the education of our children.

There is, however, an apparent shortcoming in the present curriculum in regards to the study of languages. Our own ethnic group, as well as others, feels the necessity, and we think rightly so, of preserving the positive characteristic of our culture, for by adding this to our great Canadian heritage we can build a truly progressive and democratic community. But in most cases this culture is inextricably tied to the German language.

In a large number of churches and Sunday schools the predominant language is German. This obviously stresses the need for the teaching of this language to the students at an early age, so that the training of the churches need not be wasted on these young people. Closely associated with this is the practice of singing the great German hymns in the original form. Here, too, an early knowledge of the language helps greatly in the understanding and interpretation of the work of the masters. Furthermore, a student attending the university must take a foreign language—either French, Latin or German.

Generally speaking, a foreign language is introduced to the student at the grade seven level. We contend that this is too late for the student to acquire a conversational knowledge of the language. This was also realized a few years ago by the general curriculum committee, and schools able to teach French, were given an opportunity of starting at grade four with this

instruction. We believe this to be a forward step in education.

Thus, in review, we would strongly recommend that the schools able to teach the foreign language should have the option of starting this instruction at the grade one level.

Profound, indeed, has been the gratitude in Mennonite communities for the privilege extended to our local districts to have German taught in school before nine and after closing. Through this medium, the interest for the second language has been maintained, but due to the cramped time and insufficient instructional material the skill in the German language has not been maintained properly. For this reason, we would like to make two recommendations:

1) That the German language be taught during the regular school day.

2) That texts and course of studies be outlined for all grades.

In adopting these two recommendations, it should be borne in mind that the German is taught only in communities where the need is felt. Thus, to satisfy this need, the course should consist of material and textbooks approved by the district. It seems advisable to have a committee which is at present already grappling with this problem appointed as revision committee to study and draw up a uniform course of studies in German all the way from grade one up. The implementation of such a plan would result in a much more efficient educational process in our second language and would help to prepare all students willing and able to proceed with the education of their choice.

MEI Choir on CBC

Clearbrook, B. C.—For the seventh successive year the choir of the Mennonite Educational Institute was heard on the CBC Parade of Choirs.

This year's program of the 55-voice choir was on the air on December 7. Director of the choir is Rev. C. D. Toews, music director at MEI. Pianist is Miss Clara Thiesen.

The program consisted of numerous German and English folk songs and concluded with sacred songs in keeping with the Advent season.

Unique Venture Inaugurated in Ontario

Kitchener, Ont.—In order to help young people get started in farming and to create new interest in rural community life, the Amish Mennonite Mission Board in Ontario has begun a unique project.

A 100-acre farm has been purchased about two and a half miles south and one mile east of Ailsa

Craig, near the home of the Nairn Amish Mennonite congregation. It is planned to divide the house into living accommodations for two families. This property is to help young couples get started in farming.

Two committees are jointly supervising the project. The mission board has appointed two men to work with a committee of three members from the Nairn Church in planning and supervising the operation of the farm.

The board is also going to appoint someone to visit all the churches of the Amish Mennonite Conference of Ontario to further introduce the program.

General Conference Sponsors Integrated Church

Newton, Kans.—One racially-integrated church and one Negro community service project are already in operation in the General Conference of Mennonites and two more are being planned, it was revealed at the meeting of the boards of the General Conference of Mennonites here.

The first Negro-white church was begun in the Woodlawn district of Chicago's southside by the faculty and students of the Mennonite Biblical Seminary nine years ago. It is now being transferred to the conference's Board of Missions because the seminary is moving to Elkhart, Indiana. A Negro assistant-pastor was recently ordained at the church.

The Board voted to enlarge the work in the Woodlawn district. An apartment building near the church will be bought to house the team of workers that the Mennonites will send to work and live in the Woodlawn Negro community. Membership in the church will continue to be open to the people of all races.

The General Conference of Mennonites have long supported a community service project in the Negro community of North Gulfport, Mississippi. Similar ventures are being planned for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Americus, Georgia.

Christmas Carols

(Continued from page 1-4)

German village on Christmas Eve of 1917, when 150 World War I soldiers from practically every nation sang together the glorious words of "Silent Night" in at least six different tongues.

The host of Christmas carols and songs, accompanied by the melodious strains of piano, violin, guitar or flute, not only help to spread the true feeling of the Christmas spirit but add to the enjoyment of family holiday fun as well. Indeed, Christmas without music is all but impossible to imagine.

Bible Handed Down Five Generations

By George Derksen

Subversion, hardship, starvation, privation, sickness, temptation and all the fiery darts of the devil have failed to make Dick Klassen, Sunday School superintendent of the North Kildonan M. B. Church swerve from his motto, "Cling to the Bible, my boy."

Mr. Klassen has stuck to the heritage of his ancestors, for he has in his possession "the good old book" — his great great grandfather's Bible, which has been handed down over five generations of the Klassen family.

Outside it was a dark gloomy night, and a chill wind moaned through leafless trees as this reporter arrived to interview Mr. Klassen at his home at 395 MacKay Avenue in North Kildonan. Somehow the weird night seemed a premonition of the type of story that would be told concerning the old Bible.

A Family Heirloom

Inside Mr. Klassen's warm cosy seven-room house was a different atmosphere. Mr. Klassen told of how he obtained possession of the Bible and how he managed to hang on to it.

A close scrutiny of the introductory pages of the big book (about 50 pounds in weight) showed that it had been written in 1729. Originating in Germany, the big book was taken to Poland more than two centuries ago by Mr. Klassen's great great grandfather. Later it was taken to Russia, always representing the hope and faith in the hearts of the people who treasured it.

Its years of use in Russia proved very eventful, for often the big Bible had to be hidden for fear it would be destroyed. The greatest danger came in later years from communist agents.

Used in Family Devotions

Mr. Klassen's own remembrance of the Bible runs way back to the village of Wasiljewka. He recalled that here his father, who was a farm implement manufacturer, used to gather his family of twelve children around him and read out of the Big Book for family devotions. Mr. Klassen had the joy of salvation at the early age of ten.

The Communist revolution in 1917 made things difficult for the Klassen family, and in 1925 they decided it was time to leave Russia or perish.

In most respects the Klassen family was more fortunate than other Mennonite families who left Russia at that time. They managed to sell their property and transfer their rubles into gold in Moscow, bringing it to Canada with them.

The Russian Bear

Asked what his impression was of Moscow in those days, Mr. Klassen replied that he was impressed at how clean the city was. Speaking of the Russian bear, Mr. Klassen added, "I saw a real one in the Moscow zoo. People were starving but this bear was so fat he could hardly walk, quite indicative of the Russian bear of today."

The journey from Russia started in 1925 for the Klassen family, with the exception of three children: one daughter who came later, one son who died of disease, and another son who stayed behind because he couldn't escape the military draft.

The son in the army was mainly responsible for the presence of the Bible in Canada today. The communist police confiscated the big book from the Klassen family at the Polish border and sent it back to Moscow. However, the son managed to retrieve it and send it out of the country with relatives. It was returned to Mr. Klassen's hands, where it has stayed ever since.

Buy Land at Steinbach

The family first settled on a farm near Steinbach and paid for it with money they brought from Russia. Nearly all the land was covered with bush, so the boys, Dick, Jacob and Cornie, undertook to clear it. When spring came and the deep snow melted there was still no land to be seen, for it was literally covered with big stones. The family almost despaired. Hard work, cold, and strange diet were all factors which led to the failure of Mr. Klassen's health. He contracted rheumatism.

In 1927 the Klassen family moved to North Kildonan. Dick started to work in a candy factory for one dollar a day. "I still have the first fifty cents I earned in Canada," Mr. Klassen said, grinning broadly.

He recalled that after he married his wife, the former Gertrude Langeman, they moved into their first house—a chicken house. During their stay in the strange dwelling Dick Klassen started to build a house, the dimensions of which were 14 feet by 20 feet. The cost was \$210.

Start Own Business

For employment during the early years of his married life Mr. Klassen used to go around with his brother fixing machinery. Finally in 1936 they started their present business, a metal stamping enterprise.

With their father as bookkeeper, Dick, Jacob and Cornie built the business into what it is today, a thriving business with a turnover of over \$100,000 a year. The company employs 12 people.

Mr. Klassen has been in active

Christian service during most of his years in Canada. He was elected superintendent of the North Kildonan M. B. Sunday school in 1931—a position which he held for seven years. He said that he had 40 students at that time.

In 1944, Mr. Klassen was again voted in as superintendent of the Sunday school and he said that the Lord has really blessed him, for he has had the honor and joy of seeing it blossom into a Sunday school with more than 400 students.

Has His Heart in Sunday School

Mr. Klassen has his heart in his Sunday school work. He tries to obtain more ideas so that the teaching may keep up with the modern world. In order to do this he attended an international Sunday school convention at Grand Rapids, U.S.A., as one of the registered three and a half thousand delegates.

The motive behind Mr. Klassen's Sunday school activities is pure and simple. When he was first elected in 1931 he did not have much enthusiasm for the work. But the Lord convicted him, and he did not find peace until he accepted the responsibility.

Although Mr. Klassen admits that there are men who have more capabilities than he has, he feels he will serve in this capacity until the Lord leads him to retirement from the work.

Mr. and Mrs. Klassen have been blessed with a family of six children. They are: Walter, 24, who is married; Edward, 22, attending Briercrest Bible Institute; Irene, 20, employee at her father's office; Erica, 17, employee at the children's hospital; Jacob, 14, taking grade eight in the M. B. Col-



During more than two centuries this 50-pound Bible has provided inspiration for members of the Klassen family in Germany, Poland, Russia, and now Canada. Mr. Dick Klassen of North Kildonan, Man., remembers it being used regularly for family devotions in Russia. The book may be old, but the message it contains is still as fresh this Christmas as in the first century: "... behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

legiate Institute; and Johnny, 10, taking grade five in the Princess Margaret public school.

Mr. Klassen has realized more than a lifetime ambition. He says that God has blessed him and always provided, so no matter what may come, he has a complete trust in the Author of the "Big Book" he has treasured so dearly.

A Musical Note in Christmas Entertainment

The traditional carolers of the Christmas season are a part of the outdoor holiday scene, but to the hostess the problem of home entertainment is most important.

Christmas parties planned around a music motif can ease the strain on both budget and time schedules. And entertainment planned around music "breaks" through the age barrier, providing fun for all and eliminating conversational lapses.

Plan ahead to have the children spend pre-holiday evenings cutting out gaily colored paper musical notes; string them together and tape to doors, fireplace and mirrors. Second hand sheet music of old time favorite songs of the family can be purchased inexpensively and taped within your picture frames temporarily to give a musical air to your decorations.

Solos by Children

Dust off the old guitar, have the piano tuned and urge your relatives and friends to "bring along" the instrument of their choice. The school teacher or park playground supervisor may be coaxed to lend you some rhythm band instruments (Continued on page 10-4)

THE Young Observers

Let's Visit a Minute

Dear Boys and Girls,

In a few days Christmas will be here. I'm sure that you are already getting quite excited about it. No doubt your tree is beautiful with its coloured lights, coloured balls, tinsel and the star at the tip.

Christmas is the one event in the year that all children really look forward to. Everyone seems to get a thrill out of the Christmas decorations, the Christmas programs, the Christmas songs, and the gifts. But did you know that there are millions of children in this world who have never even heard of Christmas? They grow up into adults and never have the fun that you have at Christmas. Why is that so?

I can hear someone saying that these people have never heard of Jesus. That's right. If Jesus had not been born in Bethlehem even we wouldn't be celebrating Christmas. And even though He had been born and we had never heard of it we wouldn't be celebrating Christmas either. So the fact that Jesus came into this world, and was born in a manger as the Son of God is the most important truth at Christmas. Yet it is also important that we tell others about Him.

During this Christmas season we hope you'll remember to thank Jesus for leaving Heaven to come to this earth to save us from our sin. We hope you'll also take time to tell the Christmas story to those of your playmates who do not know of Jesus.

Aunt Selma.

Happy Christmas for Tessa

By Anna Yarbrough

The big store sparkled with tinsel and Christmas bells. Tessa was watching two girls. They were shopping at a counter marked, "Gifts for Grandmothers." One girl bought a pretty white scarf.

Tessa said, half-loud, "I wish I had a grandmother."

"What did you say?" Tessa's mother asked. Mrs. Thompson was buying red light bulbs. Some of the red lights on their huge Christmas tree had burned out last night.

Tessa repeated, "I wish I had a grandmother."

Mother paid the saleslady for the light bulbs, then she asked, "Why do you want a grandmother?"

Tessa smiled, "I'd buy her one of the pretty white scarfs to wear around her shoulders."

Mrs. Thompson was thoughtful, "Tessa, why don't you buy one of the scarfs and give it to someone else's grandmother?"

Tessa shook her head. "I want her to be my grandmother."

Mother patted Tessa's brown curls, "Then, Tessa, you'll have to find a play-like grandmother. How about Mrs. Baumgarten?"

"Mrs. Baumgarten?" Tessa echoed. "She's too cross."

Mrs. Baumgarten lived on the same block with the Thompsons. The elderly woman's house was at the foot of the hill.

"I want a sweet grandmother," Tessa said.

"If you gave Mrs. Baumgarten

a Christmas gift, she might be sweet," Mother smiled.

"All right, Mother," Tessa agreed. "Jesus wants me to be nice to her."

Tessa bought a beautiful white scarf for Mrs. Baumgarten.

Christmas morning she walked down the hill to Mrs. Baumgarten's home. The playlike grandmother idea didn't seem like a good idea any more. Tessa was half afraid.

Timidly she knocked on Mrs. Baumgarten's door.

Mrs. Baumgarten looked out the door. "What do you want?" she asked.

Tessa was close to tears, "May I come in?" she asked.

The old woman opened the door a little wider, and finally said, "I guess so."

Tessa walked into a faded room. The drapes were faded. The rug was faded. Everything looked faded just as Mrs. Baumgarten looked faded.

Tessa held the gayly wrapped Christmas package toward Mrs. Baumgarten. "I've brought you a Christmas present."

The old woman stopped frowning, "A present for me?" she asked.

"Yes," Tessa bravely tried to smile. "Both my grandmothers are dead. Mother told me I could play like you were my grandmother."

The old woman sat down in a rocking chair. She opened the pretty package. Two big tears



This picture shows five shepherds on their way to Bethlehem to see the Christ-child in the manger. Three of them can be seen clearly, but the artist has hidden two of them so that you'll have something to look for. A hint—if you turn the page so that you can look at the page from another angle, you'll be able to find the two hidden shepherds.

rolled down her wrinkled cheeks. "Thank you," she said, holding up the scarf.

As Mrs. Baumgarten rocked she said, "Honey, I've never had a grandchild. My son, my only child, was killed in the war." She wiped her eyes with her sleeve, "I've been so lonesome."

Tessa said, "You can be my real grandmother, then you won't be lonesome for you'll have me. And I'd like to tell you about Jesus, too. He'll help you so you won't be lonesome."

The old woman smiled and looked real sweet, "You're a good child."

Tessa lifted her face and kissed Mrs. Baumgarten's soft, wrinkled cheek. Then Tessa said, "Happy Christmas, Grandmother."

—Young Ambassador.

Baby Jesus Is Born

(Luke 2)

Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to pay a bill. Many people went there to pay their bills. Mary and Joseph could not find a place to sleep at night. They looked it over. There were too many people, so they could not find a room.

Finally it got dark. Mary and Joseph found a place to stay. It was a barn. All the animals were there. Joseph and Mary stayed there, too.

While they were there, Mary had a little baby. This baby was God's baby. Mary took good care of God's little baby. An angel told her what to name Him. They called him Jesus. Jesus is God's Son. We love God's Son.

Some men were taking care of their sheep in the field. An angel came and told them that Jesus had been born. They went very fast to see the little baby. They left their sheep in the fields. They knew that Jesus was God's Son. When they got there, they saw Mary and Jo-

seph. Little Jesus was lying in a manger. Then they went back to their sheep. They told all the people what they had heard and seen. They were happy to see Jesus, God's Son.

BIOGRAPHIES

By Harry Albus
Each \$1.25

Honest Abe

The inspiring story of the great emancipator is a favorite tale with young and old alike. In this book Harry Albus has paid special attention to the religious element in Lincoln's life, and there emerges the picture of a great and humble Christian who took his problems—and those of the nation in its most trying days—to Almighty God in prayer.

The Music Maker

This biography of Johann Sebastian Bach tells of the great composer's wonderful achievements and the engrossing human side of the genius whose compositions are among the world's greatest. It is a story of Christian devotion and achievement to both his music and to his God that will inspire all young readers, especially those who love the great Bach cantatas and chorales that form such a rich and profound part of Christendom's great musical heritage.

"Deep River" Girl

This is the life story of Marian Anderson. Modern young readers thrill to this timely story of this generation's pre-eminent woman of the world's concert stage. Marian Anderson is more than a great artist, she is the authoritative voice of her people, the soul cry of her race. The story told here is beautiful in its sincere warmth and adroit handling of a delicate theme.

THE CHRISTIAN PRESS, Ltd.,
159 Kelvin St., Winnipeg 5, Man.

FROM HERE TO THE PINNACLES

By Elizabeth Schroeter

Copyright 1956 by Elizabeth Schroeter. Used by special permission of the author and Exposition Press Inc., New York. All rights reserved.

(40th Installment)

After dinner in Melitopol, Vater retired. Anna wanted to do some window-shopping. Johann, who was a bookkeeper at the Melitopol P. Chernikov Store, and Liesbeth went to a theater. She was sure that Johann was more concerned about familiarizing her with the mechanics of moving pictures than he was about the story they were going to see. She had not heard about moving pictures. One of her friends in Margenau had stereopticon slides which Liesbeth had seen many times, but motion pictures were new to her. On the way to the theater, Johann explained to Liesbeth that moving pictures had originated about a year before she was born. An American by the name of Thomas Edison was the inventor. "They are something like labeled stereopticon slides in motion," he explained.

The picture they saw was a French production by Melies entitled A Trip to the Moon. Russian words and sentences identified the scenes.

Upon leaving the theater, Johann remarked that he believed the Russians lacked real interest in motion pictures, since pictures were a quiet thing and the Russians liked noisy entertainment.

On the way home Liesbeth wanted to know, "Why, if moving pictures were invented before I was born, did I never hear about them?"

Johann told her, "The Mennonite Brethren believe moving pictures are wicked. The members are discouraged from attending them."

"Is that why Anna and Vater turned down your invitation to come along?"

"I am sure it was."

"In my opinion motion pictures and theaters are like musical instruments; whether or not they are wicked depends on the use made of them," Liesbeth philosophized.

Early the next morning the three tourists turned south for a few versts to see the Molotschna Lake into which the river of the same name emptied. They encountered some swamps and were obliged to turn back without actually having approached the shore. However, they saw part of the lake.

"If this little lake is this big, then the Black Sea toward which we are heading must be enormous," Liesbeth mused. "Will we be able to look across it and see Turkey and the Caucasus?" she asked.

"I don't know," said Vater, "I have not been there."

While riding through a Russian village Liesbeth surreptitiously called Anna's attention to a wash-line on which were several purple and black bloomers tied with elastic in the belt and at the bottom of the legs.

Anna smiled and whispered, "Be thankful that they are washing them, even if the color is purple or black. So many Russian women and girls don't even wear 'em."

When they neared the Perekop Isthmus that joins the Crimea Peninsula with the mainland, they could see Tatars in the fields in their Turkish caps and strange clothing. Some were plowing with wooden plows and one or two oxen. In the distance they saw what looked like about ten women pulling one plow. They could not tell whether they were Tatar women. There were dogs everywhere, but they seemed to be far more hungry than vicious. For the first time in her life Liesbeth saw a team of camels hitched to a wagon. Some of the Tatar horses on the road had been decorated with blue beads, supposedly to protect the animals from evil spirits.

The Tatars of the Crimea spoke Turkish, Vater told the girls. They were horseflesh-eaters and of the Moslem faith. Vater said the Tatars were reported to have descended of the Biblical Ishmael. Mohammed, an illiterate citizen of Mecca, had founded that faith in the seventh century A.D.

Liesbeth reminded Vater and Anna of what she had learned in school about that southern part of Russia, including the Molotschna and the Crimea. At one time it had been inhabited by Cimmerians. About the time of Christ the Cimmerians had been subjugated by an Iranian-speaking tribe called the Scythians. They were responsible for the big kurgans between the Black Sea and Kiev. Later Samartians had conquered everything and everybody between the Baltic and the Black Sea. The Russians believed them to be their real ancestors. After a few centuries of life with the Samartians, the Huns of Asia and the Goths of western Europe had overpowered the southern Russian people. Mongols had flooded the country at that stage. Then came the Avors, the Magyars and the Khazars. Charlemagne of the Holy Roman Empire also had put his finger into the struggle for the land through which Liesbeth

and her companions were riding. Greek, Swedish, Polish and French rulers, likewise, sought to conquer the rolling hills, and for a time the Persians entered the picture. The Tatars and Turks probably occupied the steppes longer and later than anyone else, and there they still were—the Tatars whom Empress Catherine II had conquered and against whom she had put a barrier in the form of Mennonite colonies. But now, a hundred years later, the Turkish Tatars were as tame as purring kittens.

Anna asked Liesbeth whether she had learned anything about the Tatar khans. Liesbeth said she had not.

Anna told her that Batu Khan, the grandson of Genghis Khan who conquered so many people, had lived at Bakhchisarai, Crimea, in a big castle.

"It is still there," said Vater. "We shall see it in a few days."

A twinkle appeared in Liesbeth's eyes and smilingly she said, "This is a very interesting and instructive trip. I can hardly wait to see everything. Sometimes I wish our horse were a bit speedier." Then she asked, "What happened to those Tatar khans?"

Anna explained that for about four hundred years there were numerous wars between the Tatars and the Turks, the Tatars and the Russians and the Turks and the Russians. There were so many wars and treaties, Anna said, that she always had been happy in school when she was not obliged to memorize their dates and terms.

"Are the Tatars still enemies of the Russians?" Liesbeth inquired.

Vater said, "The Turks and many of the Tatars hate the Russians. That hate is implanted in the children and carried with them through life. However," he continued, "a large segment of the Tatars mixed with Poles and Lithuanians and became the White Russians. Some Tatars mixed with other Slavic groups and developed into the Little Russians of the Ukraine. We call them Chochole. The northernmost Slavs were the only ones who were not conquered by the Tatars. They are called the Great Russians, and their language is that of our schools and books."

"It seems to me that the Russians have been at war almost constantly and that practically all European and Asiatic people at heart would be enemies of Russia," Liesbeth said.

"That's probably true," Vater said. "The remarkable thing about Russia's wars is that in the end Russia has always come out on top and owns just about every inch of land or sea that she ever fought for, while her enemies had to take losses. Just look at those Tatars. They are downtrodden, poor and ill-treated; they are a conquered people."

Eupatoria looked thoroughly Oriental. Liesbeth and Anna had time to go to the beach and to get the feel of real sea sand and air. But they were startled and embarrassed when they saw people swimming in the nude. The girls quickly turned their backs on the bathers and walked away.

They examined a Jewish synagogue which was the headquarters of a sect called the Karaites. They had split from the Jewish faith between A.D. 700 and 800, rejecting the Hebrew Talmud and holding to the belief that the whole universe consisted of atoms. Liesbeth found it interesting that there were other faiths besides that of Mennonites that had branched into several groups. The Dukhobortsy and Molokani had left the Russian church and the Karaites had parted from the main body of Hebrews.

Vater accompanied the girls to a Mohammedan shrine, built in the sixteenth century. It was copied after the St. Sophia Mosque of Constantinople. One of the ruling Tatar khans had built it to supplement his shrine at Bakhchisarai. After two hours at that wonderland of ancient history, Vater solemnly told the girls that they would have to bypass Sevastopol and Balaklava. In that way they would be able to travel according to schedule. Otherwise they would not be able to be home in two weeks. At first Liesbeth was sorry to have to miss seeing the cities that had played a heroic part in the Crimean War. But when they approached the southern part of the peninsula, they were so delighted with the cool Black Sea breeze, the clear blue sky and the serene and gorgeous hills that they soon forgot their disappointment. The hills were covered with lush dark-green cedars and laurels, palms, magnolias, olives and wild rose and other creeping plants, giving the landscape a strange color. There were so many pink, blue, yellow and violet flowers that Liesbeth never had seen that she made no effort to learn their names or to pick any to preserve in a scrapbook. The impressive monasteries, mosques, convents and Tatar villages cozily nestled in the roads, the ancient ruins in the midst of rocks and forests and the resorts and summer palaces of the Russian nobility formed a veritable paradise.

(To be continued.)

Out of the Earth

By E. M. Blacklock. 78 pp.

In this book the author, who is a professor at the University College at Auckland, N.Z., writes a scintillating account of the most noteworthy triumphs of the witness of archaeology to New Testament history. Both students and general readers will find this treatment up-to-date and absorbing reading.

Price \$1.50

The CHRISTIAN PRESS, Ltd.
159 Kelvin St., Winnipeg 5, Man.



The Steinbach M. B. Church dedicated the \$28,500 Sunday school addition to its church building on Sunday, December 8. Here we see the new four-story church front as it now appears. It is 24' x 64', and houses 20 Sunday school classrooms, washrooms, a gas heating system, and a roomy front entrance. Rev. H. A. Regehr is the present pastor of the 285-member church, which was founded 30 years ago. (Photo courtesy Carillon News)

Mennonite Brethren Mission Notes

New Freedom in Colombia

Missionaries in Colombia report that an indigenous minister at Istmina, Choco, Colombia, has received permission to hold services together with the missionaries. This is a cause for real thanksgiving, since during the last few years this has not been possible.

Mission Schools Receive High Praise

It has been reported that the state school inspector recently visited one of the M. B. mission schools and that he had high praise for the school. He expressed the wish that there would be more such mission schools in India. He declared that such a school program deserved the support of the government—especially for those children who could not pay the school fee because they were too poor.

Support Work in Indonesia

The mission board has sent a gift to Indonesia to support the work being done among the Chinese there. The gift is to reach the field before Christmas and aid the workers there in reaching the children on these islands in Southeast Asia.

Evangelistic Outreach in the Congo

Rev. A. J. Esau writes from the Matende station in the Belgian Congo: "Although the Bambunda tribe is hard to reach with the Gospel, some of the older folks are beginning to open up to the gospel message. The receptiveness of the Bapende tribe to the Gospel is encouraging. We have been able to enter this territory to a greater extent than ever before, and we are looking forward to extended meetings where the doors will open

for them. We are praying for the continued presence of the Lord and a renewal of the Christians, so that souls might be saved."

Concerning their daughter Lois Rev. Esau writes that her arm is nearly straight and that she can use both her arm and her hand. Lois is at the school for missionaries' children for the first time this year. "We are glad for the provision of the Lord and the interest of the Christians at home," Brother Esau writes.

Mission Study Guide Revised

The Mission Study Guide, which first appeared in October, 1955, has been revised and reprinted. It contains 24 lessons to guide groups studying the foreign missions program of the M. B. Church. Included in the guide are a program of studies and a bibliography for source materials. Ladies' Sewing circles and other groups have been using the guide, which may be obtained by writing to the Board of Foreign Missions, 315 South Lincoln, Hillsboro, Kans.

H. H. Janzen Again Busy in Europe

Rev. H. H. Janzen of Winnipeg, Man., has a full schedule of evangelistic services and Bible conference work in Europe. His itinerary includes services in France, Switzerland, Germany and Luxembourg. Intercession is requested for his health and for the work he is doing.

Mission Represented at World Exposition

Mission and church work in the Belgian Congo will be included in the displays at the huge world exposition at Brussels, Belgium, in

Mennonite Brethren Board of Welfare

— The South American Mennonite Brethren District Conference is to meet in Fernheim, Paraguay, beginning on January 19. The churches in Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay are looking forward to this meeting again. The last conference was in Bage, Brazil, early in 1956.

— Brother and Sister Henry C. Born and their family continue their service in Volendam Colony, Paraguay. The family includes daughters Julia, Rebecca and Naomi. The following paragraph from a letter to their North American friends suggests some of their services in the school and church in Volendam: "The Zentralschule graduation is over. With this school term completed, this leaves us more time to plan other things such as young people's work in church, Christmas concert, youth retreat and the coming district conference in January. Mrs. Born continues her work with the women of the sewing circle. When we scan the year's work, we are thankful for the Lord's blessing. He moved upon some hearts to seek forgiveness, upon others to yield more fully. Some of our young people went to Bible school, and we trust God to make them vessels meet for His use. Pray for them and others here."

— Brother and Sister William Schroeder and family plan to visit and fellowship with some of our churches in Uruguay and Brazil

during the summer school vacation. Brother Schroeder, who teaches in the Zentralschule in Neuland, Paraguay, will be preaching in the churches visited.

— God is blessing through the ministry of Brother G. H. Sukkau as he preaches and does personal work during the summer school vacation. It is indeed encouraging that individuals are continuing to respond to the call of the Lord to repentance and salvation. In a meeting conducted for several villages in Fernheim Colony, Paraguay, eight souls accepted the Lord. In Guarituba, Brazil, several young men responded. On November 24 five souls were baptized in Sao Paulo, Brazil and accepted into the Mennonite Brethren fellowship in that city. With this baptism, there are 23 Mennonite Brethren members in Sao Paulo. Brother Sukkau had the privilege of visiting with each of these members during the course of his ministry in the city.

— The Guarituba Mennonite Brethren group, which has been a branch of the Curitiba Mennonite Brethren Church, has been organized as a separate congregation. Leader of this group of 70 members is Brother J. Wiens. The Guarituba Church has applied for membership in the South American District Conference.

— The Pharisee in the temple prayed with himself, but his prayer didn't go through the ceiling. It just bounced around a bit and that was all. —Wm Ratzlaff.

1958. There will be both Catholic and Protestant exhibits. Various mission boards, including the Mennonite Brethren, are donating money and materials, such as literature and pictures, for the exhibits. The Belgian Congo government is supporting and encouraging this part of the universal exposition by appropriating funds for it and sending native Christians to the exposition. Mennonite Brethren missionaries who are either on the way home or travelling to the field will participate in the Protestant exhibit.

Extension Work in Mexico

In Mexico the native evangelist Alfredo Villarreal is accompanying a group of believers who twice monthly hold services in a neighboring village, Ensaldos. He requests prayer for this extension work, so that the Gospel might take root in this village and spread to other villages.

Mrs. A. A. Janzen at Hillsboro

Mrs. A. A. Janzen, who was widowed by the death of her missionary husband recently, is now serving at the headquarters of the mission board at Hillsboro, Kans. She

had been residing at Mountain Lake, Minn., since the death of her husband, Rev. A. A. Janzen.

New Attempt to Reach Morros

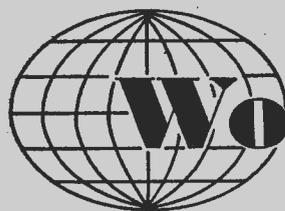
Indian Christians will be taken along on a new expedition that will attempt to establish contact with the deadly Morro Indians in Paraguay. Rev. Franz writes from Paraguay that it is hoped that contact can be established through these native Christians. This new attempt to reach the Morro Indians needs fervent intercession.

Dedication Service Planned

Dedication services are being planned for January, 1958, at the new church at Indianoma, Okla. The furniture has been ordered and it is expected that it will be delivered before the end of December.

Intercession Needed

The missionaries in Brazil report that the customs office has not yet returned the amount they overcharged on the Chevrolet station wagon sent to Brazil to aid in the work there. Prayer is needed for the return of these funds so that they can be applied in the mission work.



Round-Up of World-Wide

RELIGIOUS NEWS REPORTS

Meditation Room in Office Building

The new multi-million-dollar home office of the State Mutual Life Assurance Company in Worcester, Mass., contains a meditation room for the company's 1,000 employees. Purpose of the room is "to provide close at hand a place to which employee or officer, stenographer or vice-president, may repair at any time of the day to think out a personal problem, or to silently pray." The firm stressed, however, that it has "neither the desire nor the intention of taking any direct part in its employees' individual religious lives."

* * *

French Gospel Ad Draws Large Response

Missionaries of the Greater Europe Mission in France placed an ad in *Selection* (the French edition of *The Readers Digest*) and in one week they received over a thousand requests for a Bible. The first request was dated nine days before the issue came out. This 17-year-old, probably a typesetter, said he had wanted a Bible for a long time. Six days after the ad appeared the requests totaled 1,086, with as many as 386 received in one day.

The missionaries' ad made the following offer to *Selection's* four million readers: "The first 100 (who write in) will receive the whole Bible, the next 200 will receive the New Testament, and the others one of the Gospels which tells of the life of Jesus."

Letters came from service men, doctors, students, government officials. Some who realized they were probably too late to receive a Bible offered to buy one. Many letters showed real interest beyond the mere request for a Bible and these are to be followed up, by a personal letter.

* * *

Former Red Collaborator Plans to Enter Ministry

A former soldier convicted of collaborating with the Chinese communist government told a congregation meeting in Raytown, Missouri, last October 24 that the antidote for Communism is a closer relation with God. Edward S. Dickenson was captured by communists, refused for a time to be repatriated, and later served three and a half years in prison for collaboration. He now hopes to become a clergyman of the Free Will Baptist Church. He told members of a church in Raytown about communist recruitment and brainwashing techniques.

Meanwhile, Paul J. Mackensen, the Lutheran missionary released

from a Red Chinese prison last March, is teaching English in a Shanghai school. He has 60 to 70 pupils in his class and is living in his "own private quarters" in the school's dormitory.

News on Paul Mackensen's life in China was given by his sister, Mrs. Leonard E. Good, wife of the pastor of St. John's Lutheran church, Spinnerstown, Pennsylvania, and by press correspondents in Hong Kong. Mr. Mackensen resigned as a Lutheran missionary after his release from a five-year prison term early last spring. He said he did not intend to leave Communist China for the present time "because I have just begun working here and my job is very interesting. I am also getting to know a lot of people."

* * *

Moody TV Films

Moody Institute of Science, the film division of Moody Bible Institute, has produced a new 13-program series of TV programs for children which will be offered to stations on a sustaining basis. The program consists of Bible teaching interwoven with science adventures, on a children's level. The earlier "Sermons from Science" series produced by Moody was used on more than 100 TV stations across the country.

* * *

Grace at Meals

Fifty-five per cent of adult Minnesotans questioned in a Minnesota Poll survey said they say grace in their homes at mealtime quite regularly. Twenty-four per cent said they say grace occasionally; 19 per cent said "hardly ever," and two per cent said they never say grace. More Roman Catholics than Protestants (68 per cent to 51 per cent) said that grace is a regular procedure in their homes.

—o—

CANADASCOPE

Morris Man Chicago Flax Champion

C. E. Eidse of Morris, Man., was named flax champion of the Chicago International Livestock Exhibition last week. He had previously won the flax reserve championship at the Toronto Royal Winter Fair.

* * *

Tranquillizers for Young Heifers

The International Federation of Agriculture Producers has announced that tranquillizers will be used on young heifers. A pill has been prepared by a chemical company and is recommended for first-calf

heifers who are more apt to shy when milking time comes around.

Scientists have agreed that the tranquillizers will calm heifers and reduce the amount of time required to accustom them to the idea of being milked.

* * *

Boat Accident Traps Two

Two girls were trapped in the galley of a fishboat when it sank in the Georgia Strait after striking a broken and floating piece of breakwater.

The bodies of Shirley Moon, 10, and Stella Dick, 8, were taken to Campbell River, Vancouver Island, after being recovered from the boat's galley. Twelve other children and eight adults climbed aboard a skiff and were picked up safely.

Skipper John Dick, father of one of the dead girls, said he was only 100 yards from shore when the boat rammed the breakwater in the fast-running tide. The water was about 50 feet deep at that point. The party on the boat was returning to the Indian reservation at Cape Mudge, on Quadra Island, from a Christmas party at Quathaski cove.

Two in Liberal Leadership Race

Veteran politician Paul Martin has announced in his riding that he will "be available" for the Liberal party leadership. Mr. Martin's decision, announced before 250 of his Essex East, Ont., constituents, whom he has represented for 22 years, enters him with Lester B. Pearson, former external affairs minister, in the running for the party's top post. The leadership convention will be held January 14 to 16 in Ottawa, when Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent will formally resign his post as leader of the Liberal party.

* * *

Impractical to Harness Power of Tides

The long-held dream of harnessing the Bay of Fundy's giant tides for power production may sink in the muddy bottom of Passamaquoddy Bay.

Engineers have bored 50 feet into the sea bottom and found only mud. The problem would be to find a solid footing for dams.

They said it appeared that the project, while perhaps physically possible, would not be economically feasible.



A Bankrupt World

By J. H. Hunter

When one looks abroad upon the world today and considers the vast sums that are being expended for defence and destruction it seems, at times, that we live in a world of madmen. Again and again we are brought face to face with figures that stagger the imagination and cause one to ask how long can it continue. For instance, since 1948 to 1956, just seven short years, the member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization spent on defence alone the colossal sum of \$371,985,000,000. Such astronomical figures are almost beyond the range of the human mind. To save such a vast sum at the rate of \$100,000 a day would take more than ten thousand years to accomplish.

And when one asks if the expenditure of this astronomic sum has brought safety to the member nations of NATO and purchased an impregnable defence, the pessimistic answer is, no! It has not, according to the supreme naval commander of the NATO forces. The firing of the ICBM by Russia and the loosing of the first man-made satellite which is circling the globe as these words are written have thrown the western nations' military authorities into something like a panic. It looks as though all the tremendous expenditures of the past

years have gone down the drain and have been washed out by the more startling vistas of destruction that are opening up.

The world has grown old with its burden of care, and today, as we approach the end of another year, the outlook for peace on earth and goodwill among men seems far from realization. Is there any hope of man reaching the goal he strives for and for which he has expended so much blood and treasure? The answer is, None! It does not lie in man's power no matter how vast his material achievement.

Peace is not something that will be found in enormous armaments, inter-continental ballistic missiles or other weapons of destruction man may yet invent. All that these do is to increase the tensions already sapping the world's sanity, hold the nations in fear, but bring them not one whit nearer to universal peace. The trouble is that mankind wants peace on its own terms, and God says it can only be had on His. "My peace I give unto you" the Lord Jesus says. It is there for the taking. It was made through the blood of the Cross. There is none other name, no other plan, no other way by which the goal of peace may be obtained. Meanwhile the years pass, the sands run out, the darkness deepens and God waits. How long, O Lord, how long?



Rice Menu Now Includes Beef

Beef, canned by Mennonites in America, has been added to the predominantly rice diet of the people of Vietnam.

Many people in Vietnam—particularly victims of leprosy—do not have a sufficient supply of rice. So cans of beef supplement their rice meals.

Harry Lefever (Harrisonburg, Va.), who directs the distribution of material aid to the people of interior Banmethout, gives this account of beef distributions:

"Early in the morning the chief of the village of leprosy patients is informed that this is the day for beef distribution. At 11 a.m. eight patients on their bicycles come to the MCC center to get eight cases of beef for their village.

"One case of beef strapped to

the carrier of their bicycle is a light load compared to the loads of rice and wood they sometimes carry. These eight cases are opened in the village. While the people gather the chief and his helpers give one can to each patient as his name is called.

"Can openers are unknown and unnecessary. A nail or sharp knife works fine. The several meals from each can is not only a treat for them but a treatment in their fight against the disease of leprosy."

Glow of Christmastide Shared in Ten Nations

Many North American families who gather this yuletide in their traditional way to exchange gifts or enjoy the pleasure of being together will know they have not entirely neglected some of the less-fortunate people of the world.

They are the families who last spring gave Christmas bundles to MCC to send to the ill-clothed and homeless youngsters of Europe and Asia.

Workers in MCC clothing depots worked hard and fast last summer to process the more than 28,000 co-

lorfully-wrapped bundles for shipment to relief units overseas to have in time for distribution at Christmas.

At this time the bundles, which were packed by both youngsters and adults as personal or class projects, are being given to deserving youngsters in France, Germany, England, Austria, Jordan, Vietnam, Hongkong, Korea, Taiwan and Indonesia (later).

MCC relief workers plan Christmas programs or other events in connection with giving out the bundles. Any youngster (only youngsters?) loves to get a package to find what his new possession will be.

The children overseas who receive Christmas bundles desperately need what they find inside—clothing (a toy and personal items are included in each bundle for that "extra" touch of Christmas festivity).

Whether it is a "kaw-mahp-soom-nee-dah" from orphan Lee Sung Whan in Korea, a "danke" from refugee Katrina in Berlin, or just a big smile from a homeless Arab boy, North American Mennonites can know they have greatly gladdened more than 28,000 children this Christmas.

Tour Planned February 25 — March 28

Visits to Puerto Rico, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay, Peru and Panama are planned for the 1958 tour to South America February 25 through March 28 sponsored by Menno Travel Service.

Director of the tour will be Menno Schrag of Newton, Kan., editor of the Mennonite Weekly Review. The tour provides opportunity for acquaintanceship and the strengthening of ties between Mennonites of the two continents.

The group will stop at San Juan, Puerto Rico, to visit the Mennonite mission. In Brazil the group will see Rio de Janeiro and Mennonite settlements in Curitiba and Witmarsum.

In Montevideo, Uruguay, they will see Mennonite settlements and the inter-Mennonite seminary. They will visit Buenos Aires, Argentina, before circling back to Paraguay to visit Mennonite settlements in the Chaco. There will be visits to Lima, Peru and Panama City, before returning to this continent.

Inquiries and reservations may be addressed to MTS, Akron, Pa., or one of the branch offices.

Timor Men Train in Agriculture

A second group of 13 young men from various sections of Timor island are enrolled in the Oenitu Training School which MCC workers help conduct.

Classes include instruction in vegetable growing, corn culture, rice and fruit growing, feeding and care of livestock, farm management and Christianity.

Giving leadership to the school are Paxmen Albert Hoover (Troy, O.) and Edgar Hoover (Detroit, Kan.). The director is Leonard Kingsley (Berne, Ind.).

The training school is one of the joint projects of the Timor Christian Church, the Timor government and the MCC-CWS team. Responsible young men are selected by the church to attend the school then return to their village to put to use the technology acquired, which the first group is now doing.

The Christian church on Timor makes little headway while the Timor economy is so low. This is one of the projects designed to help build the church by strengthening the island's economy.

MORE ABOUT A MUSICAL NOTE IN CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT

(Continued from page 5-4)

for the very young guests to use to join in the fun. School children who perform in bands or orchestras will enjoy being scheduled for solo acts in the family entertainment. So many youngsters learn to play instruments today, you're sure to find several.

Devise "musical" games for your parties, whether for adults in for holiday celebration or for youngsters to keep them busy while the dinner is being prepared. Plan to have someone who plays the piano play one phrase from the middle of the tune and the winner, of course, will have all ten tunes correctly identified.

A hilarious game, involving strictly amateur art, appeals to all ages. Divided into two groups, the guests vie to identify, by hasty drawing by one member, a song title given only to the "artist" of that group by the rivals. The rest of the group, leaning over the shoulder of the frantic artist, and guessing the name of the tune as he sketches, must beat the time of the others when they have their turn. Any title poses a problem that can be solved by simple drawings. Contestants take turns as "artist" and soon learn to draw quickly, using "stick" figures for persons, adding curls for girls.

Group Singing

With host, hostess or guest at the piano or guitar, group singing offers pleasant hours of entertainment with little effort by the hostess. Singing also has the virtue of dissolving age differences since it is equally pleasing to old and young alike. The combination of the Christmas spirit and the magic of a musical instrument can guarantee the success of a holiday party.

We Wish Our Members and Many Friends a

Joyous Christmas

and a

Blessed and Prosperous

New Year

Crosstown Credit Union Society Ltd.

Phone: WHitehall 2-4187

284 Kennedy St., Winnipeg 2

We Wish All Our Customers and Friends

JOY and PEACE at

Christmas

And GOD'S BLESSING

During The

New Year

C. A. DeFehr & Sons Ltd.

78 Princess Street
WINNIPEG, MAN.

10970 — 84th Street
EDMONTON, ALTA.



COLLEGES

Mennonite Brethren Bible College

It has again been our privilege to listen to a number of guest speakers in our chapel services. Dr. A. H. Unruh visited us and brought us a stirring message on "The Light—John the Baptist." Rev. G. Koehle of the Third German Baptist Church, spoke to us on "Der Wettlauf des Christen," according to 1 Cor. 9:24-27. Two visitors from the mission field also spoke to us: Dr. Cornelius Unruh, who laboured as a doctor in Paraguay, challenged us to seek first the Kingdom of God; and Miss Annie Dyck, missionary to Colombia now home on furlough, reported on the work and conditions in the country dear to her heart.

On December 6, a number of students presented the drama "David Livingstone", which was sponsored by the Literary Committee. The life of this great missionary to the "dark continent" has stirred many to follow his example and also stirred us to serve the Lord wherever He would want us to be.

The college has two choirs, the Oratorio choir and the A Cappella Choir. The former has been practicing Handel's "Messiah", and presented Part I on December 8 in the North Kildonan M. B. Church. The A Cappella choir sang at a carol service on December 13 and 14 in the college auditorium. During the processional the choir, carrying lighted candles, sang "O Come All Ye Faithful". Carols were sung by the choir as well as by special groups. A Christmas message was brought by one of the students at the close of the service. A beautiful and life-like winter

scene provided an effective backdrop.

Many of the students will again be participating in the "Good Cheer" work this year. Hampers of groceries will be prepared, and on December 18 groups will go to poorer homes to sing and tell the people the Christmas story and present them with the gifts so that they also may experience Christmas. Immediately after the Christmas banquet on December 20 most of the students will be leaving for their respective homes in order to commemorate Christmas at home. —Abe Koop.

BIBLE INSTITUTES

Mennonite Brethren Bible Institute, Clearbrook, B.C.

On Wednesday, November 27, the Girls' Prayer Group from the Mennonite Educational Institute visited the Girls' Prayer Group of our school.

Friday, November 29, was the day when we all had to "shine up" to get our pictures taken for "The Torch", the school yearbook. Our photographer was Mr. Ben Janzen, a Class III student. Pictures were to be taken on Wednesday, but because of unforeseen circumstances the photographer was delayed until Friday. Thus the student body was in its "Sunday best" Wednesday through Friday. On Monday, "retakes" were photographed.

Rev. Peter Froese of the West Abbotsford Mennonite Church spoke to the school during chapel period on Tuesday, December 3. Rev. Froese is Chairman of the British Columbia Peace Committee. He used Daniel chapter two as the basis for his message.

The MBBI Christmas program was presented on Sunday night, December 8, in the auditorium of the MEI. Rev. George Konrad, who joined the teaching staff last fall, made the opening remarks. The first part of the oratorio "Christ and His Soldiers" was sung by the school choir, with Miss Elfrieda Neufeldt and Miss Ruth Neufeld as soloists. Miss Linda Dahl recited, "Have You Grown, Child?" The evening's message was delivered by Ben Janzen of the third class. Main item on the program was the play, "Soldiers of the Cross." It illustrated that if we want to keep our life we must lose it. Rev. J. F. Redekop directed the play, with Peter Rahn and Miss Dora Neufeld as the main characters.

Rev. Herman Voth, teacher at the school for several years, was given a gift by Rev. A. H. Wieler, principal, in appreciation of Rev. Voth's work on the radio program. Closing remarks were made by Mr. H. H. Neufeld, a member of the school board.

East Chilliwack Bible School

The Lord has been good to us and given us many blessings during the past months of Bible school. Several ministers and missionaries have spoken to us during the chapel period, but one visitor whom we particularly remember is Rev. Walter Gomez, missionary to Mexico. The Holy Spirit worked through his message, and a cleansing of hearts and dedication to God resulted. We will long remember that memorable day of November 25, 1957.

We were able to present a pre-Christmas program at the East Chilliwack M. B. church on December 8. The program consisted of a play, choral speaking, special numbers in song, and a message. We thank God for the help and the blessing He gave us. We presented a similar program in the Chilliwack M. B. church on December 17.

The afternoon of December 2 was spent in "housecleaning" the school. We worked together as a family and soon saw the floors and woodwork shining again.

Two groups from the school visit local old folks' homes every two weeks to bring cheer in song to the patients. We have found that when we serve others we are also serving God. We thank God for this privilege, and pray that we might do all as unto the Lord. Jesus said in Matthew 25:21: ". . . thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make thee a ruler over many things . . ."

—Eva Rogalsky.

Pacific Bible Institute, Fresno, Calif.

Winnipeg in "Elijah"

Felix Mendelssohn's immortal oratorio *Elijah* is being rehearsed by the choir of Pacific Bible Institute, Fresno. Albert Kohfeld, third year music student from Washington, will sing the role of Elijah. Zoe Ann Janzen of Shafter will

be the soprano soloist; Martha Friesen of Winnipeg is the contralto soloist; and Adonijah Pauls of Oregon will take the tenor solos.

Five or more performances are anticipated at the beginning of the second semester. The forty-voice choir is enjoying a better balance this year with a stronger male section at hand, reports Director Dietrich Friesen.

Musical Groups Active in Community

Other vocal ensembles of the school are a 15-voice men's Glee Club, two male quartets, a ladies' quartet and a ladies' trio. These groups are supplying the ever-increasing demand for musical service in and around Fresno. They have served at conferences, harvest mission festivals and local church gatherings. The Men's Glee Club has visited the Rosedale and Bakersfield M. B. churches, and is planning its first full concert at Paso Robles in the First Mennonite Church on December 15.

An hour's entertainment in voice, piano and organ music was presented in the P.B.I. auditorium on the evening of December 6—the year's first concert, sponsored by the music department. Observers note that the level of performance on instruments and in voice has been steadily improving over the past few years.

Play is Presented at Young People's Groups

A half-hour missionary play entitled "Child of Blessing" has been produced by the P.B.I. dramatics class at three churches in the past few weeks; at the Cedar Avenue Baptist Church on November 24, the Fresno M. B. Church on December 1, and the Memorial Baptist Church on December 8. Further requests for the play have been rejected because of the students' busy schedule.

In January or early February the department will give a three-act drama entitled *Tabitha Ann*, the story of a Christian family in which a mother copes with her teenagers' problems—and some of her own.

Mennonite Observer

Our Christian Family Weekly for Mennonites of All Age-groups

LESLIE STOBBE — Editor

The MENNONITE OBSERVER is being published every Friday by The CHRISTIAN PRESS, Ltd. 159 Kelvin St., Winnipeg 5, Manitoba, Canada.

Address all correspondence to the above address.

Managing Director — H. F. Klassen
Production Manager — J. K. Neufeld

Subscription rate: \$1.75 a year; in combination with the Mennonitische Rundschau — \$4.50 a year, payable in advance.

Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.

The MENNONITE OBSERVER strives to have Christ at the helm, the salvation of man as its goal, and the essential unity of all true Mennonites as its guiding principle.

A Joyous Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

REDEKOPP LUMBER & SUPPLY CO.

Phone: EDison 1-4311

WINNIPEG 5, MANITOBA

Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year

Jack's Pharmacy

1108 Henderson Highway

Phone: EDison 1-7333

First Organizational Meeting for Brunk Campaign

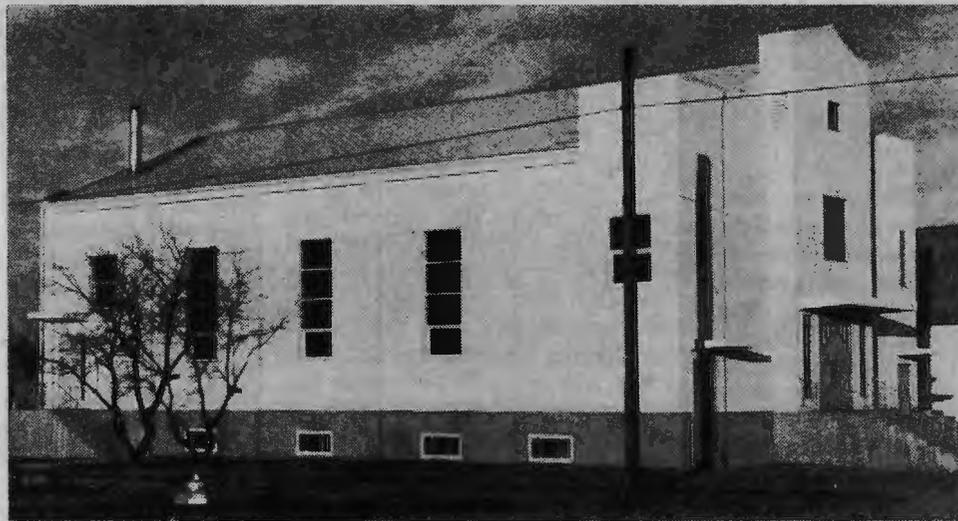
Abbotsford, B. C.—A prayer session began the first organizational meeting in the Abbotsford area for next summer's Brunk Tent Revival Campaign.

Held in the Mennonite Brethren Bible Institute on December 5, the meeting was the first in a series to plan and organize next summer's Mennonite-sponsored meetings.

Rev. J. F. Redekop, teacher at the M. B. Bible Institute, was elected as president of the area executive. Other members of the executive are Rev. P. F. Froese, secretary, and Reuben Dyck. W. G. Wiebe, P. I. Dyck, and J. Martens were nominated to find a suitable location for the tent campaign. Promotion will be in the hands of a committee containing Abe Klassen, John Redekop and Menno Epp. A. A. Olfert, George Falk and Abe Friesen were appointed to supervise the finances, while Rev. C. D. Toews, Albert Nickel and Henry Wiebe are to look after the music.

The executive will keep in touch with the churches through the contact man who is to be appointed by each local church.

Further appointments will be made at the next meeting, January 2.



This is the new \$40,000 church edifice of the Herbert, Sask., Mennonite Brethren Church. The 40' x 68' structure was dedicated on Sunday, November 24. The Herbert M. B. Church dates its beginning to the early years of the present century and now has a membership of 210, with Rev. Rudy Janzen as pastor.

The Bible Today

The unprecedented demand for Bibles today has placed a tremendous burden on the British and Foreign Bible Society, it is reported from headquarters in London, England.

Despite the fact that more Scriptures are printed on overseas mission fields than ever before, the number sent out from London has more than doubled in the past two years.

In 1955 the British and Foreign Bible Society dispatched from Lon-

don a total of 1,259,481, New Testaments and Gospel portions in the first 6 months of the year. In 1957 the figure for the same period was 2,674,910 volumes.

Production of the British and Foreign Bible Society has increased six times over in the past ten years, and the demand for next year is even greater.

Mennonites will meet in Winnipeg for their annual sessions.

February 10 to 23—The annual two-week Ministers' Course will be given at the M.B. Bible College, 77 Kelvin St., Winnipeg. Write for further information concerning courses offered.

Elmwood Choir Will Sing Oratorio

Winnipeg, Mna. — Well-known Mennonite soloists will join the choir of the Elmwood Mennonite Brethren Church for the annual Christmas program, Sunday evening, December 22.

Under the direction of Mr. Helmut Janzen the choir will sing "Christ and His Soldiers", by John Farmer. Soloists for this year's performance are: Peter Koslowsky, tenor; David Falk, bass; Mrs. Rita Stobbe, soprano; and Miss Adeline Willems, contralto.

On the Horizon

December 21—The choir of the Steinbach, Man., Mennonite Brethren Church will present the oratorio "Bethlehem", by Maunder. Soloists are: Peter Koslowsky, tenor; David Falk, bass; and Mrs. Rita Stobbe, soprano.

December 22—The choir of the Elmwood M.B. Church, Winnipeg, will sing "Christ and His Soldiers" at 7 p.m. Soloists are: Peter Koslowsky, tenor; David Falk, bass; Mrs. Rita Stobbe, soprano; and Miss Adeline Willems, contralto.

December 27-29 — The annual Bible Conference in the Elmwood M.B. church, 155 Kelvin St., Winnipeg. Services begin at 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.

January 16 to 18 — The boards of the Canadian Conference of



A Gift for You 1958 MENNONITE HOUR DESK CALENDAR

showing in full color, areas where our broadcasts are heard.

Name
Street
City Prov.

Write: THE MENNONITE HOUR
Box 334, (Dept. MO) Kitchener, Ontario

LORNE A. WOLCH
B.Sc., B.O., O.D.
Optometrist and Optician
Eyes Examined
272 Kelvin St., Elmwood
Phone: LE 3-1177

ORDER FORM for the MENNONITE OBSERVER

Subscription rate: \$1.75 per year.

The Christian Press, Ltd.
159 Kelvin St.,
Winnipeg 5, Manitoba.

Please send me the MENNONITE OBSERVER for year(s).
 New Subscriber Renewal

Enclosed please find \$..... in
(Postal money order or bank cheque, including exchange.)

Name:
(Please print)

Address:
(Sample copies mailed free upon request.)

The Mennonite Observer Extends WARMEST CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS to All its Readers, Reporters, and Advertisers

★
We also thank all customers of the bookstore for your patronage and shall appreciate your goodwill during the coming year.

The Christian Press, Ltd.
159 Kelvin Street
Winnipeg 5, Man.